

most prominent service is the BBB AUTO LINE for care manufacturers operating in the United States; and

The Council's Foundation, supporting the Council's mission by providing as a member service information, training and technical assistance to small businesses to promote voluntary compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which affects virtually all members.

President George Bush in his message to the delegates at the 1990 Annual Assembly of the Council stated: "One of the greatest strengths of our free enterprise system lies in the willingness of American businessmen and women to respect the rights of consumers while advancing their companies' interests. Over the years, Better Business Bureaus have effectively promoted truth and fairness in the marketplace and, in so doing, have earned the confidence and gratitude of the American public."

From a business perspective, W.R. Howell, Chairman and CEO of J.C. Penney Company, Inc., wrote recently, "The Council of Better Business Bureaus enhances public trust and confidence in responsible businesses. Through a commitment to self-regulation, the BBB system promotes an ethical marketplace, enabling those companies that conduct business fairly, in the best interests of their customers, to prosper."

The Bureau system is moving into the twenty-first century carrying its message of ethics, self-regulation and consumer confidence into the information age. Last year, the Council and Bureau system completed a structural reorganization and adopted a banner for growth and leadership for the next century. It is printed below.

#### THE BETTER BUSINESS BUREAU SYSTEM OUR VISION

Our vision is to be the preeminent source of information relating to ethical business and advertising practices and to be a major provider of marketplace dispute resolution services.

#### OUR MISSION

Our mission is to promote and foster the highest ethical relationship between businesses and the public through voluntary self-regulation, consumer and business education, and service excellence.

#### OUR GOALS

Our goals include the following strategic directions for the Better Business Bureau System as a team of professionals and volunteers, united by our commitment to our common vision, mission and values:

We will be the most widely recognized and highly visible promoter of ethical business practices.

We will be a widely recognized and highly visible provider of alternative dispute resolution services.

We will be customer-driven, with uniformly high standards of performance for core national, local and entrepreneurial programs in the marketplace.

We will have a significant percentage of large and small business firms as certified members of the BBB system, who proudly display their commitment to our mission and values.

We will offer a fully integrated, accessible national information and services delivery system, utilizing leading-edge technology and committed people to respond fully and quickly to all inquiries and resolve all complaints.

#### OUR VALUES

To accomplish our mission, we commit to the values of Excellence, Integrity, Teamwork, Trust and Respect to guide all of our decisions and behavior with each other and with all those we serve.

## TERM LIMITS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 29, 1995*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 73) proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States with respect to the number of terms of office of Members of the Senate and the House of Representatives:

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, the House of Representatives this week is considering proposed amendments to the Constitution which would establish term limits for Members of Congress. I rise today in opposition to such a constitutional amendment.

The question of term limits for Members of Congress is not a new one. In fact, the issue has been debated since the time of the Continental Congress in 1777.

I do not support term limits for Members of Congress for a variety of reasons. First, the Constitution already provides for a limit on Members of Congress, by requiring that Members of the House be elected anew every 2 years and Senators every 6 years. Term limits laws only serve to disenfranchise voters, by removing their ability to choose an incumbent legislator. This represents an arbitrary restriction on a fundamental right of our political system—the right to vote.

Second, term limits laws can have anti-democratic effects. Term limits would arbitrarily force many competent and experienced Members out of office prematurely, regardless of the wishes of their constituents. This reduces the power of officials elected by the people, transferring power to appointed officials and other elected parties. Professional lobbyists, executive branch bureaucrats, and legislative staffs would all gain power if the tenure and experience of elected legislators was restricted by a term limits amendment. This would be a perversion of representative democracy.

Third, there is simply no need for artificial term limits. The amount of turnover in the House and Senate demonstrates that voters are fully capable of making this decision for themselves. More than half of the Members of the House of Representatives have served less than three terms. More than 40 percent have been in Washington for less than 3 years. Instead of debating term limits, Congress should be passing a meaningful legislation on the subject of campaign finance reform. I welcome and look forward to such a bill, which is conspicuously absent in the vaulted Contract With America.

The 1994 elections provided ample evidence once again that the ballot is the most useful form of term limitation in our American democracy. Voters, as they should, have the final say on whether their elected officials can provide their districts the most effective representation in Congress amongst the various candidates. Accordingly, I oppose the term limits amendments that are before us this week.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM PETERS

**HON. JOHN JOSEPH MOAKLEY**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 30, 1995*

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor William Peters, a remarkable man who has dedicated almost 30 years of his life to the teaching of young people in the city of Boston.

On June 26, 1994, Mr. Peters was involved in a boating accident on Long Pond in Plymouth, which sadly left him with a severe head injury and other trauma. His friends, students, and staff from the Blackstone Elementary School in Boston, MA, have kept a silent vigil throughout the summer and into the fall. Progress has been slow and halting at best. This has been a genuinely heart-breaking course of events for Mr. Peters, his family, and all those who are close to him.

According to his colleagues and his students, Mr. Peters is one of the truly outstanding people in the teaching profession. Mr. Peters teaches fifth grade. To an impressionable 11-year-old, he is the kind of teacher that a young person is likely to remember as one who made a significant impact on his or her life. An unusual combination of booming authority, gentle grace, and street savvy, Mr. Peters has left his indelible mark on many students.

To the staff at the Blackstone, particularly the inexperienced and anxious newcomers to teaching, Mr. Peters has been a wealth of experience and a benchmark of excellence. For his friends and colleagues and many others he has come to epitomize what a good teacher is, a person of intelligence, gentle spirit, and refreshing humor who has made a lasting and deep mark on their lives.

Mr. Peters, by his hard work and presence has made the educational process at the Blackstone Elementary richer in a most substantial way. Mr. Peters was responsible for the coordination of the Blackstone Choir, organized the fifth grade graduation, composed and performed music at school functions, ran after-school computer activities in conjunction with the juvenile court, and helped coordinate the DARE Program at the Blackstone. Mr. Peters has also taken the time to give back to his profession by hosting many student teachers in his years of service and I am certain that they benefited greatly from his leadership and example. Mr. Peters' classes have consistently tested among the highest in the school, year in and year out. In celebration of his dedication and skill, Mr. Peters was presented a Golden Apple Award for teaching excellence in 1992 from the City-Wide Education Coalition of Boston. Mr. Peters has also worked for many years at the South Boston Boys Club. He remains in contact with many of his former students.

Mr. Peters was a Golden Glove Boxer, who fought under the name of Henry Strickland, because his father would not permit him to box, was scouted by the Detroit Tigers and is an avid fisherman who has fished both fresh and salt water.

Mr. Peters and his wife, the former Alice Parker of Watertown, MA, have been blessed with six children, Susan, Kelly, Billy, Greg, Julie, and Clifford.